

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video processing device as controller
equipment comprising:

video requesting and receiving means for receiving
5 a video from a video transmitting device via a
communication line, the video transmitting device
selectively synthesizing a sub-video on a transmitted
video;

sub-video synthesizing means for selectively
10 synthesizing a sub-video on the received video obtained
by the video requesting and receiving means;

display means for displaying the received video
with the sub-video synthesized thereon by the sub-video
synthesizing means;

15 sub-video synthesis status checking means for
checking the received video for a sub-video synthesis
status by transmitting a check request for checking of
a sub-video synthesis status to said video transmitting
device via said communication line and receiving a
20 response to said check signal via the communication
line from said video transmitting device as a video
source; and

sub-video controlling means for controlling a sub-
video display status of said sub-video synthesizing
25 means depending on the sub-video synthesis status
checked by the sub-video synthesis status checking
means.

2. A video processing device comprising:

sub-video synthesizing means for selectively synthesizing a sub-video on a transmitted video;

5 video transmitting means for transmitting the video with the sub-video synthesized thereon by the sub-video synthesizing means, to a video display device via a communication line; and

10 sub-video synthesis status notifying means for notifying said video display device of a sub-video synthesis status of said sub-video synthesizing means via the communication line in response to a sub-video synthesis status check request transmitted from said video display device.

15 3. A video processing device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said communication line comprises a fast serial bus.

20 4. A video processing device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said sub-video synthesizing means synthesizes a video of a menu selection or of a control panel used to control the device, as said sub-video.

25 5. A communication device according to claim 1, wherein said sub-video controlling means changes a display form of a displayed item to be synthesized by said sub-video synthesizing means when said sub-video synthesis status checking means determines that the received video changes to a sub-video synthesis status.

6. A communication device according to claim 5,

wherein said sub-video controlling means recovers the display form of the displayed item which has been changed by said sub-video synthesizing means, to the original display form when said sub-video synthesis status checking means determines that the received video changes to a sub-video non-synthesis status.

7. A video processing device according to claim 1, wherein said sub-video synthesis status checking means checks a range in which the sub-video is to be synthesized on the received video, and said sub-video controlling means controls said sub-video synthesizing means so that a displayed position of the sub-video to be synthesized will not overlap the range in which the sub-video is synthesized on the received video.

8. A video processing device according to claim 1, wherein based on a result of the check by said sub-video synthesis state checking means, an identifying sub-video is synthesized on a displayed video, the identifying sub-video clearly showing whether the currently displayed sub-video is from the video processing device or from said video transmitting device.

9. A video processing device according to claim 1, wherein based on a result of the check by said sub-video synthesis state checking means, an identifying sub-video is synthesized on a displayed video, said sub-video controlling means provides such control that

a sub-video having the same contents as the sub-video being synthesized on the received image by means of said sub-video synthesizing means.

10. A video processing device according to claim 1,
5 further comprising input means for inputting user operations and operation target selecting means for switching an operation target based on a result of the check by said sub-video synthesis state checking means.